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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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S-E-C-R-E-T

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ARMY review completed.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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COUNTRY Poland
 SUBJECT Polish Order of Battles
 39th Mecz Inf Regt

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1. In September 1951, upon completion of the NCO school at the 9th Ind Med Tk Regt 1, [redacted] approximately 120 EM were reassigned to the 39th Mecz Inf Regt at Drawsko (Dramburg - N 53-32, E 15-48), where the regiment was stationed for summer training. It was located at Drawsko during 1951 for summer training and then returned to its caserne at Trzebiatow nad Rega (Treptow an der Rega - N 54-04, E 15-16). [redacted] 25X1
2. [redacted] the 39th regiment was known as an infantry regiment until about 1949, at which time it was designated as a motorized infantry regiment. About September 1951 [redacted] the regiment had been redesignated as the 39th Mecz Inf Regt. 25X1
3. [redacted] every regiment in the Polish Army had a specific mission which was considered as classified information. [redacted] the 39th Mecz Inf Regt was known [redacted] 25X1

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as a shock regiment. (literally a regiment of quick action - Pulk Szybkiego Dzialania). In the event of war, its mission was to destroy or repel airborne and/or amphibious landings, to penetrate enemy lines and encircle the enemy's forces, and to destroy the enemy's rear service units.

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4. [redacted] the medium tank battalion of the 39th Mecz Inf Regt was activated about September 1951 and [redacted] 120 EM who had completed the NCO school at the 9th Ind Med Tk Regt were the first persons to be assigned to it. An unknown number of officers and EM were also transferred to the medium tank battalion from the subordinate units of the 39th Mecz Inf Regt during October 1951 in order to increase its strength. Upon activation, the medium tank battalion consisted of four companies, with each company having four platoons. During the latter part of 1951, however, it was reduced to three companies, each company consisting of three platoons.²

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5. [redacted]
- mortars within the regiment were exchanged for new ones of a heavier caliber, [redacted] the regiment received an unknown number of vehicles which replaced the horses that were used to draw weapons and equipment.

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6. During September 1951 [redacted] at Drawsko, the medium tank battalion of the 39th Mecz Inf Regt received 20 unused T34/85 medium tanks at a railroad station at Kalisz Pomorski (Kallies - N 53-17, E 15-54). [redacted] these tanks had been transported by rail from the USSR since he had seen several shipping tags with Cyrillic writing on them attached to the tanks. [redacted] certain tank parts were heavily coated with a preserving type of lubricant, which might indicate shipment from a distant point in the USSR. During September 1951, upon the return of the 39th Mecz Inf Regt to Trzebiatow nad Rega, these 20 medium tanks were transported by rail from Kalisz Pomorski to the caserne [redacted] at Trzebiatow nad Rega.

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7. [redacted] at Trzebiatow nad Rega, the medium tank battalion of the regiment received by rail an additional 13 previously unused T34/85 medium tanks of an unknown year of manufacture. [redacted] the medium tank battalion was authorized 33 medium tanks. [redacted] certain parts of the tank were heavily coated with a protective lubricant and that shipping tags written in Cyrillic were attached to the tanks. [redacted] they were transported from the USSR.

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8. From October 1951 to January 1952, the medium tank battalion accomplished a thorough winterizing maintenance of all their medium tanks, conducted tank driving instructions, and conducted practical and theoretical instruction on the use of tank radios, map reading, preparation of overlays, selection of defensive and offensive tank positions, preparation of tank traps, tank ambushes, proper methods of camouflage, and individual instruction for the tank crews in the operation of tanks. Although the tank engines were new, the winterizing maintenance included a thorough greasing of all exterior parts, changing of transmission oil from heavy to light, and inspection and cleaning of air filters and oil pumps. Tank engines were operated until they were well-heated prior to making the oil change. The water pump and water cooling system was flushed with a

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caustic soda solution and hot water. An alcohol type of antifreeze solution was poured into the radiators to withstand a freezing point of minus 40 to minus 50 degrees Celsius. [redacted] additional amounts of the antifreeze solution frequently had to be added to each tank engine that had been in operation for several hours. Tank threads were removed, inspected, and reinstalled. The 85-mm gun was thoroughly inspected and its mechanism tested and lubricated. Each tank crew examined and tested the various mechanisms installed within the tank.

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9. On various occasions, for instructional purposes, each company formed its personnel into four groups, namely, tank commanders, gunners, driver-mechanics, and loaders, and gave them practical instruction along these lines. Other periods of instruction included the operation of tank radios and marksmanship training.

10. Tank driving instruction was given at a training area near Trzebiatow nad Rega and included driving in various tactical tank formations, crossing streams, and driving across open areas and in wooded areas. [redacted] company officers seldom conducted the practical theoretical instruction. Such instruction was usually given by an NCO to a small group of EM from the company and only supervised by the company officers. [redacted]

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11. Several practice alerts were held by the medium tank battalion from October 1951 to January 1951. [redacted] as conducted by other subordinate units of the 39th Mecz Inf Regt. During the practice alerts, the personnel of the medium tank battalion placed their individual equipment on their bunks, took their side arms and reported to the ammunition room where they received several ammunition magazines for each tank's machine guns. The tank crews then reported to the tank park and warmed the tank engines in anticipation of a tank movement from the tank park. On one or two occasions, three or four tanks were driven from the tank park for a distance of about 12 km and then returned. The other tanks remained at the tank park until the alert was over. [redacted] purpose these alerts [redacted] to give practice in rapid preparation for moving out by tank crews.

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12. [redacted] although 33 medium tanks (T34/85) were assigned to the medium tank battalion, only three or four of these were designated for "exploitation" (i.e., everyday use). Only these tanks were repeatedly used during practical tank instructional periods. The remainder of the tanks were designated for "conservation" and were not utilized at any time except when normal maintenance was being performed. During some tactical training periods, one "exploitation" tank usually simulated a tank platoon and/or a tank company.

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